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Enter The Exotic And Exciting World Of...
KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
DIRECT EDITION
SEGA

KNUCKLES™

BOOK TWENTY-SEVEN

THE FIRST DATE

PART TWO OF THREE

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BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES, THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO WOULD THREATEN FROM WITHIN!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

OUR STORY THUS FAR...

UPON HEARING OF CHARMY'S ENGAGEMENT TO SAFRON, VECTOR IS CHALLENGED BY THE CHAOTIX TO LAND HIMSELF A DATE. MEANWHILE, JULIE-SU IS IN A FUNK ABOUT HER UNCERTAIN RELATIONSHIP WITH KNUCKLES AND ENDS UP MEETING RAYNOR, A SON TO THE MORE PROMINENT ECHIDNA LINEAGES. AS FOR KNUCKLES, HE FINDS HIMSELF ASKING ABOUT THE BIRDS AND THE BEES, IN PARTICULAR HIS FEELINGS FOR JULIE-SU, AND DECIDES TO TAKE ACTION...

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ARCHY!

HAS YOUR ANTENNAE SCRAMBLED THE RECEPTION TO YOUR BRAIN?!

WHAT WOULD MAKE YOU BRING US TO THIS HIGH-FALOOTIN' HANG OUT?

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH JULIE-SU, M'BOY!

SHE'S OVER THERE!

OHMYGOSH!!!! SHE'S GONNA SEE ME IF I STAY HERE!!!

WELL, YES! THAT'S A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY!

HOW ELSE DO YOU EXPECT TO TELL HER WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

ARE YOU NUTS?!!

NOT IN THIS PLACE!!

OH, I DON'T KNOW!

THE LOCALE SEEMS AN AGREEABLE CHOICE TO ME!

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, RAYNOR? YOU JUST ZONED OUT ON ME!

MY APOLOGIES, JULIE-SU--

"-- BUT I WAS JUST DISTRACTED BY THE SIGHT OF SOME POOR LOST SOUL OFF NEAR THE KITCHEN!"

SHE'S TURNING AROUND, ARCHY!

I GOTTA DUCK OUTTA SIGHT!

Whoops!

KRAAASH!

YOU'RE GOING TO *PAY* FOR ANY *DAMAGES* YOU'VE DONE IS WHAT *YOU'LL DO*, YOU *BUMBLING* MISCREANT!!

I'M *SORRY.*

DIDN'T MEAN TO TAKE A *WRONG* TURN THERE!

Uh-- ABOUT THESE *DISHES*-- I-- ER--

Uh-- YEAH-- SURE, IF YOU'LL JUST TELL ME --

OH MY--!

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING DOWN *THERE* ON THE FLOOR?!!

I--uh-- I'M JUST TRYING TO CLEAN UP THE MESS I --MADE!

GET UP OFF THAT FLOOR THIS INSTANT!!!

MAY I OFFER MY MOST *SINCERE APOLOGIES*? YOU HAVE *BETTER* THINGS TO DO!

Huh?

WHY, YOU'RE *THE GUARDIAN*!!

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE *SERVED* ANYONE OF *YOUR STATURE*!

PLEASE PARDON MY *SUPREME IGNORANCE*!

I'LL HAVE ONE OF THE *HIRED HELP* CLEAN THAT!

ON SECOND THOUGHT, ALLOW *ME*!

NO! *NO*! IT WAS *MY* FAULT!

I CAN CLEAN IT UP!

HOPEFULLY *BEFORE* ANYONE ELSE SEES OR *RECOGNIZES* ME!

Who Wrote The BOOK OF LOVE Anyway?

STRO

WOULD YOU EXCUSE ME, RAYNOR?

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

BUT, OF COURSE!

NONSENSE!

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE *OUR HONORED GUEST*!

KNUCKLES! *INCOMING* AT TWELVE O' CLOCK!

WHA--?

ARCHY! I *CAN'T* LET JULIE-SU *SEE* ME LIKE *THIS*!

WHY NOT?

MAYBE SHE'LL TAKE *PITY* ON YOU!

YEAH! *RIGHT*! JUST WHAT I *NEED*!

C'MON, BE A *PAL*!

WAIT!!

BAMF!

?

YES, MADAM! MAY I *HELP* YOU?

I COULD'VE SWORN I *HEARD* SOMEONE I *KNOW*!

I GUESS I WAS *MISTAKEN*--

--*NOT*!

AND *IF* IT WAS--

I'D BET ANYTHING THAT *WAS* KNUCKLES' VOICE!

"--HE'S SURE GOING TO HEAR AN *EARFUL* FROM ME!"

I DON'T GET IT, ARCHY!

I'M READY TO BUTT HEADS WITH THE *BADDEST* HARDCASES AROUND--

--YET WHEN IT COMES TO ONE SINGLE *GIRL*--

--I TURN TO *JELLO*!

GO FIGURE!

YOU *STILL* DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?

UNLIKE WE *FIRE-ANTS*, YOU ECHIDNAS HAVEN'T A *ROMANTIC* BONE IN YOUR BODY!

THAT'S WHY *NATURE* STEPPED IN AND PROVIDED THE *SOULTOUCH* TO HELP YOU ALONG!

YEAH, SO MY *DAD* SAYS!

WONDER IF *HE* HAD IT THIS BAD OVER *MOM*?

YOU'D BE *SURPRISED*!

PROBABLY NO MORE SO THAN IF I DISCOVERED ONE OF THE GUYS WAS *DATING* SOMEONE!

SPEAKING OF WHICH--

VIDEO

"--LOOK WHO JUST MADE THE SCENE!"

OH--FATHER!

HAVE YOU SEEN KNUCKLES AROUND LATELY?

NOT SINCE DINNER LAST NIGHT! WHY?

IS ANYTHING THE MATTER?

NO! NOT AT ALL!

WE WERE JUST HAVING BREAKFAST, I HAD TO STEP OUT OF THE ROOM--

--AND THE NEXT THING I KNEW-- HE WAS GONE!

YOU DON'T THINK--?

I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HIM!

PUT WHAT PAST WHO?

YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING WHAT I THINK YOU ARE, ARE YOU?

THAT DEPENDS ON WHATEVER IT IS YOU'RE THINKING!

YOU CAN'T HOLD US ACCOUNTABLE FOR THAT!

THIS IS ABOUT WHAT KNUCKLES WAS DISCUSSING WITH ME, ISN'T IT?

ARCHIMEDES *OVERHEARD* AND *OBVIOUSLY* STUCK HIS NOSE IN WHERE IT *DIDN'T* BELONG FOR ONCE!

BUT, *WHY*?

MAYBE HE GOT THE IDEA THAT IF HE DIDN'T PLAY *MATCHMAKER*, KNUCKLES WOULD END UP A *SWINGING SINGLE* LIKE YOU!

FATHER!

THAT WAS *UNCALLED* FOR!

DEO MAY BE *BLUNT*, BUT HE HASN'T SAID ANYTHING I HAVEN'T CONSIDERED!

WHAT I FIND *QUESTIONABLE* IS THE *COMPANY* KNUCKLES KEEPS!

FORTUNATELY, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO *LEARN*--

NO, FATHER!

NOT THIS TIME!

IN THIS MATTER, I WANT KNUCKLES--MY SON, MY PRIDE AND JOY--TO HAVE HIS *PRIVACY*!

IF A *PROBLEM* DOES DEVELOP--

--I CAN ONLY *HOPE* HE HAS THE *GOOD SENSE* TO COME TO *ME* WITH IT!

"NOW, THERE GOES A CASE OF THE *BLIND* LEADING THE BLIND!"

NOW WATCH *THE MAN* STRUT HIS STUFF!

YEOW!

K-CHUNG!

SOME STRUT! YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN A *DATE* YET!

IT'S ALL ABOUT *TIMING*, ESPY!

LIKE THIS GAME, YOU MAKE YOUR *MOVES* AT THE *RIGHT* MOMENT--

--AND YOU END UP SCORING *BIG-TIME*!

CIRCUITS AND KNOBS ARE ONE THING, VECTOR--

--BUT A *GIRL* IS QUITE ANOTHER!

YEAH!

TELL A GIRL YOU CONSIDER *HER* A *PLAYTHING* AND SEE WHERE *THAT* GETS YOU!

LOOK AT *KNUCKLES*, FOR INSTANCE!

WHAT ABOUT HIM?

I NEVER SEE HIM TREAT JULIE-SU ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE WAY HE DOES US!

THE HOMEBOY HAS HIS WIRES CROSSED, IF Y'ASK ME!

WHAT DOES HE KNOW?

HE'D BE TRIPPING OVER HIS SNEAKERS IF HE HAD ANY!

YOU'RE BLOWING WIND, VECTOR! KNUCKLES IS NOBODY'S FOOL!

HAH! IF SHE HAD HIM WRAPPED ANY TIGHTER, HE'D SNAP!

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

SAY, KNUX! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

YOU WANNA KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

YOU REALLY WANNA KNOW?!!

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING!!!

THERE'S A GIRL I MAY BE IN LOVE WITH AND I HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR TRASH!!!

WHY DON'T YOU JUST--GET--OFF--MY--CASE, YOU--CRAZY--CROC!!!

EASY, KNUCKLES! CHILL!!

VECTOR DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM!

GET OUTTA MY FACE, GUYS!!

IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU--

AND YOU *KNOW* HOW VECTOR RUNS OFF AT THE *MOUTH*!

LET IT GO, MAN!

I'D ISSUE A *KING-SIZED APOLOGY* RIGHT ABOUT *NOW* IF I WERE IN *YOUR* SHOES, YEC!

HEY, KNUX!

DIDN'T MEAN TO *RAZZ* YOU!

I JUST GOT A *LITTLE* CARRIED AWAY, 'S ALL!

SORRY!

STUFF IT, VECTOR!!

WHEEE-OOOOOWW!!

WHAT IS EATING HIM?

WHAT YOU'VE JUST WITNESSED IS A *PRIME* EXAMPLE OF *ECHIDNAOPHYLUS ENRAPTURITIS*, OR IN *LAYMAN'S* TERMS--

"--THAT BOY IS *ONE LOVESICK PUPPY!*"

I HAD A *REALLY* GREAT TIME, JULIE-SU!

I WOULDN'T MIND *REPEATING* THE EXPERIENCE!

I'D BE *LYING* IF I SAID I *DIDN'T* ENJOY MYSELF OR THAT THE COMPANY I KEPT *WASN'T* WONDERFUL!

ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE!

FAIR ENOUGH! I'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT!

GOOD NIGHT, FAIR DAMSEL!

GOOD NIGHT, KIND SIR!

...sigh...

"JUST MY LUCK! THE ONE THAT WANTS ME ISN'T THE ONE I WANT..."

NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT!

I REALLY LOST IT BACK THERE!

AND IF IT WERE ANYONE BUT VECTOR, I MIGHT FEEL INCLINED TO APOLOGIZE--

--BUT HE DEFINITELY HAD THAT COMING!

IT'S ABOUT TIME HE GOT OVER IT AND OFF OF JULIE SU'S CASE!

SAY!

IF I EVER NEEDED SOMEONE TO TALK TO--

--MAYBE GETTING MOM'S PERSPECTIVE MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A BAD THING!

I MEAN-- SHE'S A GIRL-- JUST LIKE JULIE-SU IS!

EVENING, YOUNG GUARDIAN!

HERE TO SEE YOUR MOTHER?

AH-- er-- NO!

JUST PASSING BY!

WHO'S KIDDING WHO?

ALL I'M DOING IS PUTTING OFF THE INEVITABLE!

EITHER I ASK HER--

NABISCO OREO STACKING CONTEST

1. **NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.** Open only to legal residents of the 50 states in the United States and the District of Columbia, who are 12 years of age or younger at the time of entry. Employees of Nabisco Biscuit Company, Nabisco, Inc., The Walt Disney Co., participating retail stores, their respective affiliates, subsidiaries, and agencies, their immediate families, and members of the same household of such employees are not eligible to enter or win.

2. **ENTRY.** Between May 23, 1999 and August 15, 1999, compete in a "Local Contest" at a participating retail store selling Nabisco Oreo cookies. To compete, go to the specially designated "contest table," complete an official entry form and then build a stack of Oreo cookies under the supervision of the independent judging agency. One entry (that is, one opportunity to compete at a participating retail store) per person. Contestants will have 30 seconds to stack as many Oreo cookies as possible to build a self-standing, single tower. In constructing the tower, cookies must not be broken or tampered with in any way; and, contestants must stack cookies independently, without assistance of any kind. In the sole determination of the independent judging agency, the contestant who stacks the most cookies that remain standing for 3 seconds after the 30-second period ends qualifies as a Semifinalist.

3. **CONTEST STRUCTURE.** For all levels of the Contest, contestants will participate in two age groups (7 years of age or younger; 8 through 12 years of age) There will be 1 "Local Contest" per participating retail store. In each "Local Contest," 2 contestants will qualify as Semifinalists (1 per age group). For schedule information for "Local Contests," see your local participating retailer, call 1-800-ONLY-OREO or visit our website at WWW.OREO.COM. From all participating retail stores, Semifinalists' names/birthdates (and birth times) and the height of each Semifinalist's stack will be forwarded to another independent judging organization. On or about October 20, 1999, this independent judging organization will rank the Semifinalists, determining the 10 Semifinalists in each age group with the highest stacks; these 20 Semifinalists will qualify as Finalists, and will each receive a Finalist Prize in addition to the Semifinalist Prize. To determine the Grand Prize winners, Finalists will compete in the "National Stacking Finals" on or about November 9, 1999 in Orlando, Florida. In the sole determination of the independent judging agency supervising the "National Stacking Finals," the Finalist in each age group who creates the highest stack in the "National Stacking Finals" will win a Grand Prize (in addition to the Finalist Prize and the Semifinalist Prize).

4. **PRIZES.** Grand Prize (2, 1 per age group): U.S. Series EE Savings Bond worth $20,000 at maturity; a 1-year supply of Oreo cookies (52 packages); 3-day/2-night trip for 2 to Calgary, Alberta, Canada, on dates selected by Sponsor between December 1, 1999 and March 1, 2000 to appear in a walk-on role on Disney's "Honey, I Shrunk The Kids: The TV Show." Trip consists of roundtrip coach air transportation between major commercial airport nearest winner's residence and Calgary; ground transfers between Calgary airport and hotel; 2 nights' standard hotel accommodations (double occupancy). Approximate Retail Value–$14,100 each. Finalist Prize (20, 10 per age group): 3-day/2-night trip for 2 to Orlando, Florida (November 6, 1999 to November 9, 1999), where winner will participate in the "National Stacking Finals." Trip consists of roundtrip coach air transportation between major commercial airport nearest winner's residence and Orlando; ground transfers between Orlando airport and hotel; 2 nights' standard hotel accommodations (double occupancy); 2 DisneyQuest passes for 2 days, 2 Walt Disney World 5-day hopper passports, and $300 spending money. Approximate Retail Value–$2,522 each. Semifinalist Prize (approximately 30,000, but actual number is determined by number of participating retail stores; 1 winner per age group per store): Oreo Stacking Game. Approximate Retail Value–$6.95 each. For Grand/Finalist Prizes: (a) winner must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian on all prize travel; (b) winner and parent/legal guardian must travel together; (c) all unspecified expenses are winner's sole responsibility; (d) prize trip must be taken on indicated dates. For Grand Prize, if winner is unavailable on stated dates, prize will be forfeited; for Finalist Prize, if winner is unavailable on stated dates, prize will be forfeited, with an alternate Finalist selected. For Grand Prize, winner is solely responsible for obtaining any necessary travel documents; and, walk-on role is subject to availability and other restrictions. No prize transfer. No prize substitution or cash equivalent of prize except at sole discretion of Sponsor due to prize unavailability for any reason, and only then for prize of comparable value. Prizes may be awarded to parent/legal guardian on winner's behalf. All taxes on prizes are the sole responsibility of winners.

5. **CONDITIONS.** Void where prohibited by law. Subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. All entries submitted become the sole property of Sponsor and will not be returned. Sponsor and its agencies are not responsible for incomplete, illegible, lost, misdirected, damaged, destroyed, delayed or late entries. Sponsor and its agencies are not responsible for submissions from participating retail stores that are late, lost, misdirected, damaged, destroyed, delayed, postage due, or contain errors. In the event of ties in determining Semifinalists/Finalists, the winner will be the youngest contestant as determined by time and date of birth. In the event of ties in the "National Stacking Finals," additional rounds of the stacking competition will be conducted until one winner is determined for each age group. Semifinalist winners will be announced at the conclusion of each "Local Contest," but no later than August 15, 1999. Semifinalist winners will be notified (with prizes awarded) at the retail store; if not present, winner will be notified by phone and must return to the store at a later time to collect the prize. Winners of Finalist Prizes will be notified by mail or phone no later than October 26, 1999. Grand Prize winners will be announced at the "National Stacking Finals" and will receive confirmation by mail. For Grand and Finalist Prizes, parents/legal guardians of winners will be required to execute before a Notary Public an affidavit of eligibility, liability release and a publicity release (where legal) on the winner's behalf, to be returned within 10 days of notification. Guests of Grand and Finalist Prize winners must execute and return a liability release and a publicity release (where legal), prior to issuance of travel documents. For Grand Prize, noncompliance with these requirements may result in prize forfeiture; for Finalist Prize, noncompliance may result in prize forfeiture, with an alternate Finalist selected. By participating, contestants agree to abide by these official rules and the decisions of all judges, which are final and binding in all respects. Sponsor is not responsible for misprints in promotional materials or errors in local stacking events. Sponsor reserves the right to cancel local stacking events or disqualify contestants in the event of noncompliance with these official rules. Where legal, acceptance of prize(s) constitutes permission of winner's parent/legal guardian to use winner's name, likeness and biographical information for advertising/publicity purposes, and any and all rights to said use, without further compensation. Parent/legal guardian of contestant agrees that Nabisco Biscuit Company, Nabisco, Inc., The Walt Disney Co., participating retail stores, and their respective subsidiaries, affiliates, and their respective employees, officers, directors and agencies will have no liability whatsoever for any injuries, losses or damages of any kind caused by contestant's participation in the contest, or resulting from contestant's acceptance, possession, use/misuse of prize(s).

6. **WINNERS LIST.** For a list of major prize winners, send a self-addressed stamped envelope before November 10, 1999 to: Att: Oreo Stacking Winner's List, Innova Marketing, 9401 73rd Avenue N. # 400, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

Sponsored by Nabisco Biscuit Company, 100 DeForest Avenue, East Hanover, NJ 07936-1911

--OR I GO NUTS!

STRANGE!

I WOULD SWEAR THAT LOOKS LIKE KNUCKLES!

A GEMSTONE FOR YOUR THOUGHTS, DARLING!

WYN!

I'M SORRY! I WAS JUST THINKING!

A BLIND MAN COULD SEE THAT, DARLING!

ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON YOUR MIND?

I WAS MAINLY THINKING ABOUT KNUCKLES!

HE HASN'T SAID MUCH SINCE WE ANNOUNCED OUR INTENTION TO BE MARRIED!*

I KEEP WONDERING IF MAYBE WE'RE MOVING FASTER THAN HE CAN HANDLE AT THIS TIME!

*ISSUE #16--SOCIETY PAGE EDITOR JUSTIN.

NOBODY HAS SET A DATE, DEAR LARA! I'M PERFECTLY HAPPY TO WAIT AS LONG AS NECESSARY!

WE'LL STILL HAVE EACH OTHER IN THE MEANTIME!

BZZZZ!

...uh...WHA--?

WONDER WHO THAT COULD BE?

YES?

I WAS WONDERING IF THE LADY OF THE HOUSE IS DOING ANYTHING THIS WEEKEND!

SHE *MAY*--OR SHE MAY *NOT* BE! THAT ALL *DEPENDS*!

DEPENDS ON *WHAT*?

DEPENDS ON WHATEVER *YOU* WISH TO *ASK*!

MAKE THIS *HARDER*, WHY DON'T YOU?

WELL...,er...um... IF YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING *FRIDAY* EVENING, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO ON A *DATE*--

--WITH *ME*, THAT IS!

UH, ANYTHING *SPECIAL* YOU HAVE IN MIND?

I HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT, YET!

I JUST THOUGHT I'D ASK YOU AND GO FROM THERE!

OKAY, THEN! FRIDAY NIGHT'S A *DATE*!

YESSSSSSSS!

GREAT! I'LL SEE YOU THEN!

I'LL BE HERE AT SIX!

CAN YOU *BELIEVE* IT?

SHE SAID YES!

NOW WHAT DO I DO? WHERE DO I TAKE HER? WHAT DOES SHE LIKE TO DO?

THIS IS CRAZY! I JUST ASKED SOMEONE TO GO OUT WITH ME AND I HAVEN'T A CLUE HOW TO ACT!

MAYBE THIS WAS A BAD IDEA!

HE SAID YES!

FINALLY!

WHATEVER HAPPENS, HAPPENS! AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER!

It's **CRUNCH TIME**, gang, but will our boy come through in the clinch? We'll find out **NEXT ISSUE!!**

MIGHTY THE ARMADILLO in: Those Were The Days...

WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN INTO?

NIC THE WEASEL OFFERS TO HELP ME LOCATE RAY THE SQUIRREL--

--IN EXCHANGE FOR HELPING HER LOCATE THE GEMSTONES MINED IN ROBOTNIK'S SLAVE LABOR CAMPS!

BUT NOW, I'M CONFRONTED BY A GHOST FROM THE PAST--

FIONA FOX!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE--

WRITTEN BY KEN PENDERS
ILLUSTRATED BY MANNY GALAN AND ANDREW PEPOY
COLORED BY BARRY GROSSMAN
LETTERED BY VICKIE WILLIAMS
EDITED BY J.F. GABRIE

--DEAD?!! HARDLY!

AND NO THANKS TO YOU OR THE HEDGEHOG!

THAT'S NOT FAIR,

MAYBE SONIC AND I WEREN'T ABLE TO SAVE EVERYONE, BUT WE DID THE BEST WE COULD!

THAT'S YOUR VERSION, MIGHTY!

CUT IT OUT, YOU TWO--

--YOU WANT TO HASH *DIFFERENCES*, DO IT ON YOUR *OWN* TIME!

C'MON!

WE'VE A *LOT* TO DO, AND NOT MUCH TIME TO DO IT IN!

WHERE'S YOUR *HEAD* AT, FIONA? YOU *KNOW* WE NEED *MIGHTY* IF WE'RE TO FIND THE *BOX*!

I'M *SORRY*, NIC!

I JUST GOT *EDGY* WAITING AROUND FOR YOU GUYS!

OF ALL THE PLACES I'VE EVER BEEN TO--

--I'LL *NEVER* FORGET THE DAY WE WERE BROUGHT *HERE*...

YEAH! I CAN SEE *WHY*! JUST *LOOKING* AT THE PLACE GIVES ME THE *CREEPS*!

YOU DON'T KNOW THE *HALF* OF IT! I *STILL* GET THE *CHILLS* EVEN *THINKING* ABOUT IT!

WE-DO-NOT-TOLERATE-SLACKERS-OF-ANY-KIND!

YOU-WILL-BE-PUT-TO-WORK-IMMEDIATELY!

NOT-SO-FAST!

WE-HAVE-OTHER-PLANS-FOR-YOU!

NO! NO!! LET ME GO!!

"WITHOUT THINKING, I LUNGED AT THE *YARD GUARD...*"

YOU *HEARD* THE LADY, BUB!

LEAVE HER ALONE!

WHAM

OOOW!!

HEY!!

N-N-NO FAIR *KICKING* AN ARMADILLO WHEN HE'S *D-D-DOWN*!

THIS-DOES-NOT-COMPUTE!

KLANG! KLANG! KLANG!

GUARDS! GUARDS! WHERE-ARE-THE **REINFORCEMENTS**?!!

RIGHT *HERE*--BUT NOT ON *YOUR* SIDE!

WHA--?!

"IN ANY EVENT, WE NEVER *STOOD A CHANCE*--NOT AT THAT MOMENT..."

DROP-YOUR-WEAPON!

YOU-WILL-ALL-NOW-CEASE-AND-DESIST--

--OR-ELSE-RISK-OBLITERATION!

AS-FOR-YOU--

--YOU'RE-STILL-WANTED-BY-THE-DOCTOR!

"ALL WE COULD DO IS *HELPLESSLY* WATCH--"

--AFTER WHICH THEY THREW RAY AND ME INTO THE COOLER!*

HEY, MIGHTY! QUIT DAYDREAMING!

WE WON'T ACCOMPLISH A THING BY STAYING HERE!

I STILL THINK NOTHING IS WORTH RETURNING HERE FOR!

CAN'T SAY I BLAME MIGHTY, NIC!

I'M HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS MYSELF!

*SLANG FOR SOLITARY CONFINEMENT--JUSTIN.

IT'S SPOOKY HOW EVERYTHING IS STILL STANDING--LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED!

THERE'S THE COOLER, AND THE PRISONER BARRACKS BEYOND THAT!

YOU GUYS CAN CHECK OUT THE MAIN BUILDING WHILE I SIT THIS ONE OUT!

FORGET IT, FIONA! YOU'RE EITHER WITH US ALL THE WAY OR NOT AT ALL!

BESIDES, THERE'S NO ONE BUT US HERE!

OH, YEAH? LOOKS LIKE A FAMILY REUNION TO ME!

LOOK! THERE'S SONIC!

NO, IT'S NOT!

NONE OF THEM ARE REAL!

THEY'RE JUST REPLICAS CREATED BY ROBOTNIK!

WAS THAT THE MAIN FUNCTION OF THIS CAMP--

--BUILDING THESE ROBOTS?

WHICH RAISES AN INTERESTING QUESTION-

"WHILE SITTING ALL ALONE ON THE FLOOR OF MY CELL, I SAW THE BEATEN LIKENESS OF...

SONIC!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!!

...PUFF... ...PUFF...

NEVER MIND!

HERE!

INSERT THAT CARD INTO THE SLOT ON YOUR SHACKLES--

--AND THAT OUGHTTA DO THE TRICK!

K-KLIK

NOW YOU STAND BACK--

--AND SEE WHY THEY CALL ME MIGHTY!

WHOA!

REMIND ME TO NEVER TICK YOU OFF!

NOW, LET'S FREE RAY!

IXNAY!

WE'RE GONNA DO MORE THAN SAVE A COUPLE OF BUDS!

FOLLOW ME!

"LOOKING AT THIS INANIMATE ROBOT--"

--WAS I DEALING *THEN* WITH THE *REAL* SONIC--

--OR *WHAT*?

THE ROBOTS WERE ONLY A *PART* OF IT, MIGHTY!

BUT IF THE *INFO* I FOUND IS *CORRECT*--

--*THIS* IS WHERE THE *REAL PAYDAY* IS!

ABRACADABRA! WE'RE *IN*!

WHERE DOES THIS CORRIDOR LEAD TO?

HOPEFULLY, WHAT WE CAME FOR!

WHAT ABOUT *RAY*?

I *NEVER* SAID WE'D *FIND* HIM *HERE*!

I ONLY CLAIMED TO KNOW WHERE HE COULD BE *FOUND*!

THAT IS--

--IF YOU LIVE UP TO *YOUR* PART OF THE *BARGAIN*, SPORT!

THAT'S THE *OBJECTIVE*--

--AND *ONLY* YOU CAN *OPEN* IT UP!

HOPEFULLY--

--FOR RAY'S SAKE!

TO BE CONTINUED...

FISTFUL OF LETTERS

JULIE-SU--JULIE-SU-- OH HOW MY HEART BURNS FOR YOU ...UH-OH--JULIE ...
MY JULIE-SU-- OOO--OO--OOO--OO-- OO--OOO !
YEAH, I LOVE YOU GIRL AND I NEED YOU, JULIE-SU ... I SAID I LOVE YOU GIRL AND I NEED YOU,
Julie-Su!
THANKS... I'VE BEEN WANTING TO DO THAT FOR A WHILE NOW...
clap-clap-clap clap-clap-clap clap...clap...

OFF PANEL **by Gallagher, Manak & Amash**

THIS JUST IN!

Hello, Knux fans! Hope you're enjoying The First Date starring Knuckles and Julie-Su in this three-part romantic comedy. Please write in and tell us what you think about it.

As mentioned in a previous column, there is a new Sonic & Knuckles strip that is currently seeing print in Comic Shop News (CSN), a free weekly fanzine. For those of you who cannot find CSN, don't fret -- we will be reprinting those stories in the pages of a future SONIC SUPER SPECIAL! More on this later.

On another note, the following comments on Prince Elias Acorn (a character that was first introduced in KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #19-21: The Forbidden Zone) is reprinted from an edition of This Just In printed in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #73:

Re: The age of young Prince Elias Acorn. There has been much discussion on the Sonic internet chat-room concerning an answer to a letter about his age. It was stated that the Prince was five years old when he disappeared. Their opinion was that it wasn't possible since the artwork clearly showed him to be a toddler. They were right. It was an incorrect assumption. Elias should be about two years of age when these events took place. Thanks to all who voiced their opinion, for it helped set the record straight.

J.F. GABRIE
Editor / Art Director

Catch you on the flip side!

JF

Send letters to:
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Note: Due to the overwhelming amount of e-mail and snail mail, it is impossible for us to reply personally to each and every message. However, your opinions are important to us and each message will be read. Also, due to space limitations, some correspondence may be edited. Thanks for understanding!

It's that time again, fans. Letters time! The following three letters are just a sampling of your opinions on whether Knuckles should be with Sally or Julie-Su....

Dear Knuckles.

In issue #23, you asked if anyone else agreed with Audra Sunderlin... well, I'm not one. I think you and Julie-Su were destined to meet. How can she say she's not right for you? You both like action, you both are sexy, witty, and tough. I really think Julie-Su knows how you feel about her cause she gets shy when she mentions you.

Wishing you luck.
Cara B.
Allan, Sask.
Canada

Dear J.F.G.

I'm writing this letter regarding Audra Sunderlin's letter in Knuckles: Dark Alliance Part 2 (issue #23). I must say that I strongly disagree with her matchmaking: Knuckles with Sally! I think Knuckles would be better off with Julie-Su. Leave Princess Sally with Sonic. I think it's obvious that they're in love.

Andy Yuan
Playyuan@aol.com

Dear Knuckles.

I don't agree with Audra Sunderlin! Some matchmaker! You and Sally just aren't an item. You two have nothing in common! Sally relies on Nicole and her little laser thing to save her. Sally is completely helpless! Julie-Su can fight for herself, plus she and you are my favorite characters.

Your pal.
Brianna McAuley
Cumberland House
Canada

Thanks to all who wrote in expressing their views on the subject. For those of you who want to jump on board and take sides, write in.

Re: KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #23:

Dear Knuckles.

Out of all the characters in Archie Comics, you're my favorite. I just got done with KNUCKLES #23. I wonder how Knuckles is going to get rid of the Dark Legion this time. I have a few questions: 1) In one of the back-up stories in SONIC #34-36, Knuckles had a line-up of the Brotherhood that didn't have Sabre in it. Why? 2) I don't have KNUCKLES #2 but I have #1 and #3. Are you going to get individual comics on the checklist? Until next time, your #1 fan...

David
Die1117@aol.com

What's up, David? The stories printed in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #34-36 were from Knuckles' point-of-view. At that time, Knuckles didn't have a clear idea what each of his ancestors looked like so he imagined them the way he did.

To the great story writers at Archie Comics.

Great plot developments in #23! Since Dimitri seems to have already put a few loose ends out of his mind, I'm looking forward to Locke and Spectre kicking some butt real soon. I have a few questions: 1) Where did Xenin come from? 2) Why is Dimitri still so evil? 3) Why didn't the Brotherhood improve their security after Moritori Rex's identity was revealed? 4) What enables the members of the Brotherhood to live so long? and 5) Why doesn't Knuckles ever wear Hawking's hat?

Nanaki
nanaki@psxrocks.com

Answers to your questions: 1) Xenin is one of the Dark Legion's most technologically advanced soldiers. This is just the first time we've seen him without his Legionaire robe. 2) If you ask Dimitri, he will be the first to tell you he doesn't think he's evil at all. He's just using whatever means necessary to change Echidna politics to agree and support his views, as well as those by The Dark Legion. 3) They did. It obviously wasn't enough. 4) It is assumed that their special connection to The Chaos Emerald keeps them all long-lived, and 5) Knuckles keeps Hawking's hat safe in his dwelling away from Echidnaopolis.

Well, that's it for this month. Thank you all for your comments. See you in thirty. And remember...

KEEP COOL!

Cover by Patrick Spaziante and Ken Penders. Colors and separations by Darrin Moore and Heroic Age.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

In one week: The Freedom Fighters reunite in secret and blast off into orbit to investigate the mysterious satellites (that have formed to become a massive space station) and who might be behind it all. You have three guesses -- and the first two don't count! "The Truth Is Out There" is written by Karl Bollers with art by Butler and Eklund! Also: "Tales of the Great War, Pt. 3." By Ken Penders, Art Mawhinney and Jim Amash!

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #74 on sale late June 1999!

Next Month: Now that Knuckles has asked Julie-Su on a date, he realizes that an even greater problem exists: What will they do on the date? He becomes so absorbed with this dilemma, he completely forgets about his upcoming 16th birthday! Check out "It Could Be Love (I Should Have Known Better)" written by Ken Penders with art by Chris Allan and Andrew Pepoy! Also, the conclusion to the Mighty solo story by Penders, Galán and Pepoy.

KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #28 on sale early July 1999!

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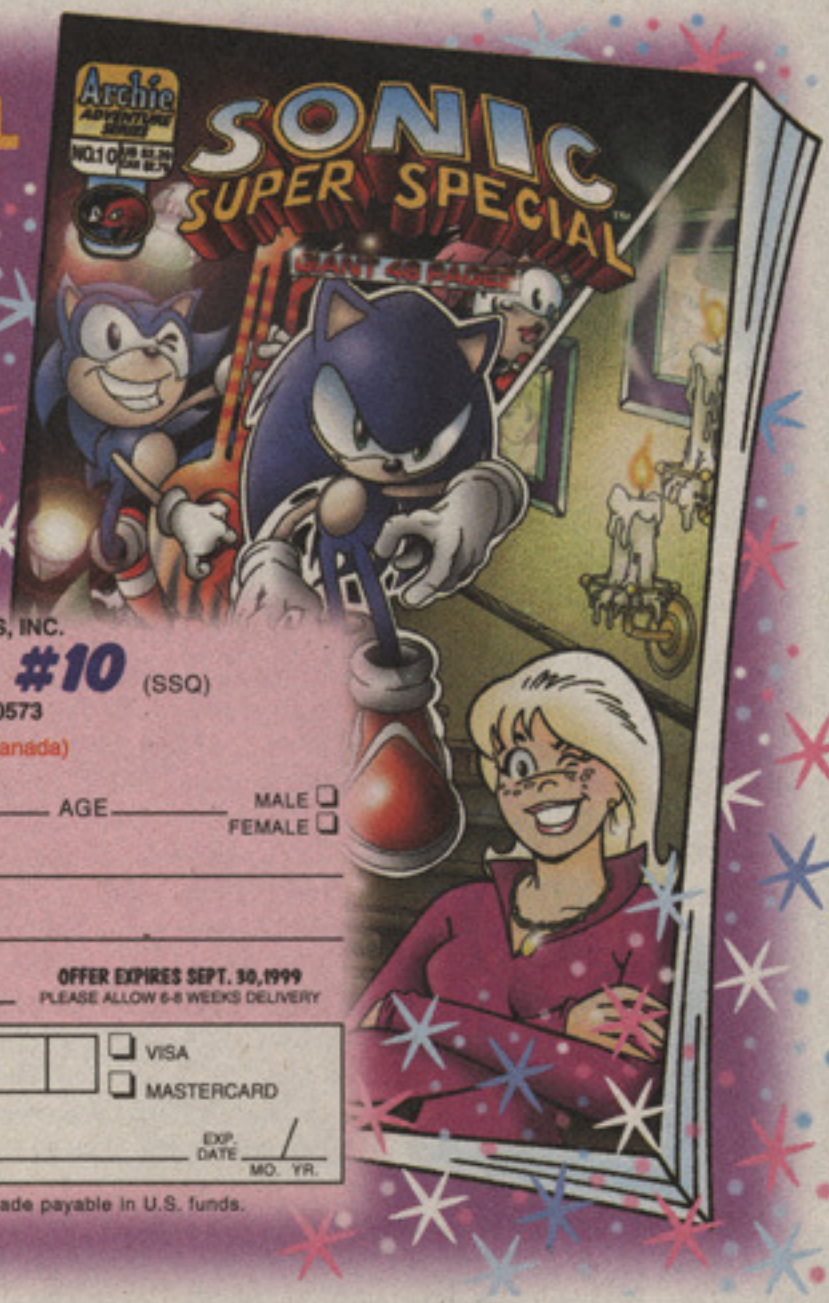
Sabrina
THE TEENAGE WITCH



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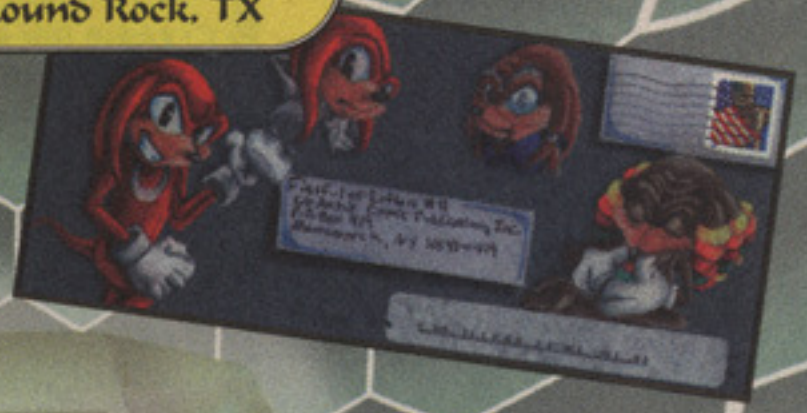
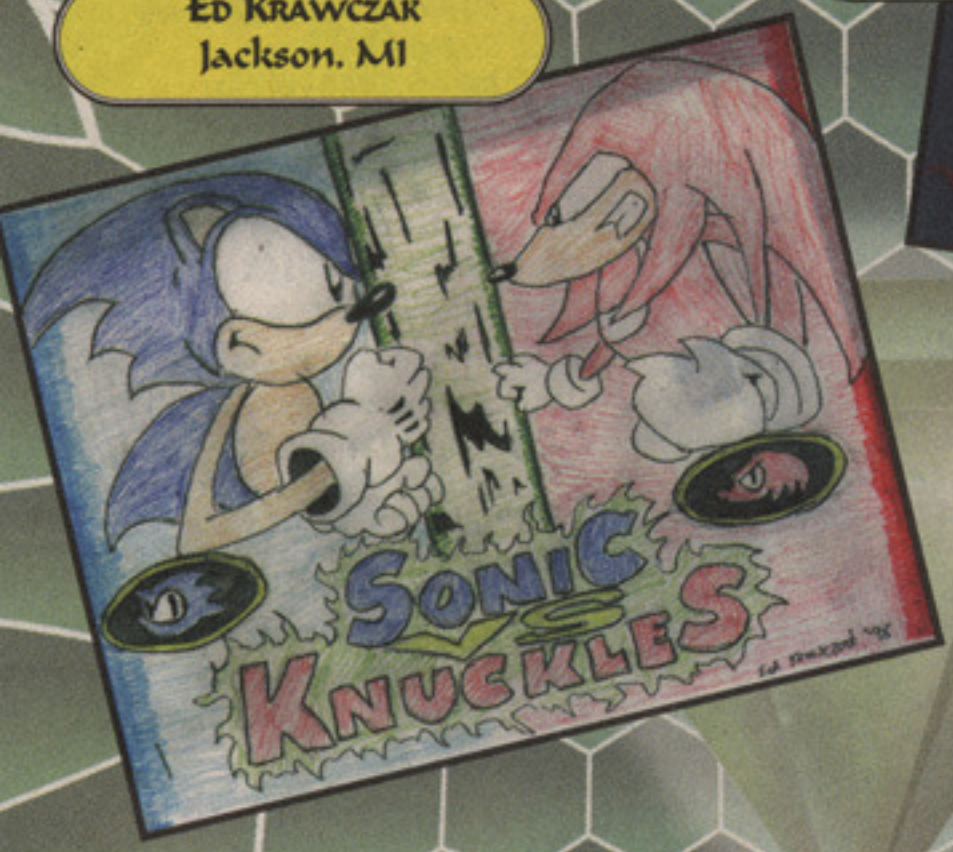


Ed Krawczak
Jackson, MI



Julius Aguisanda
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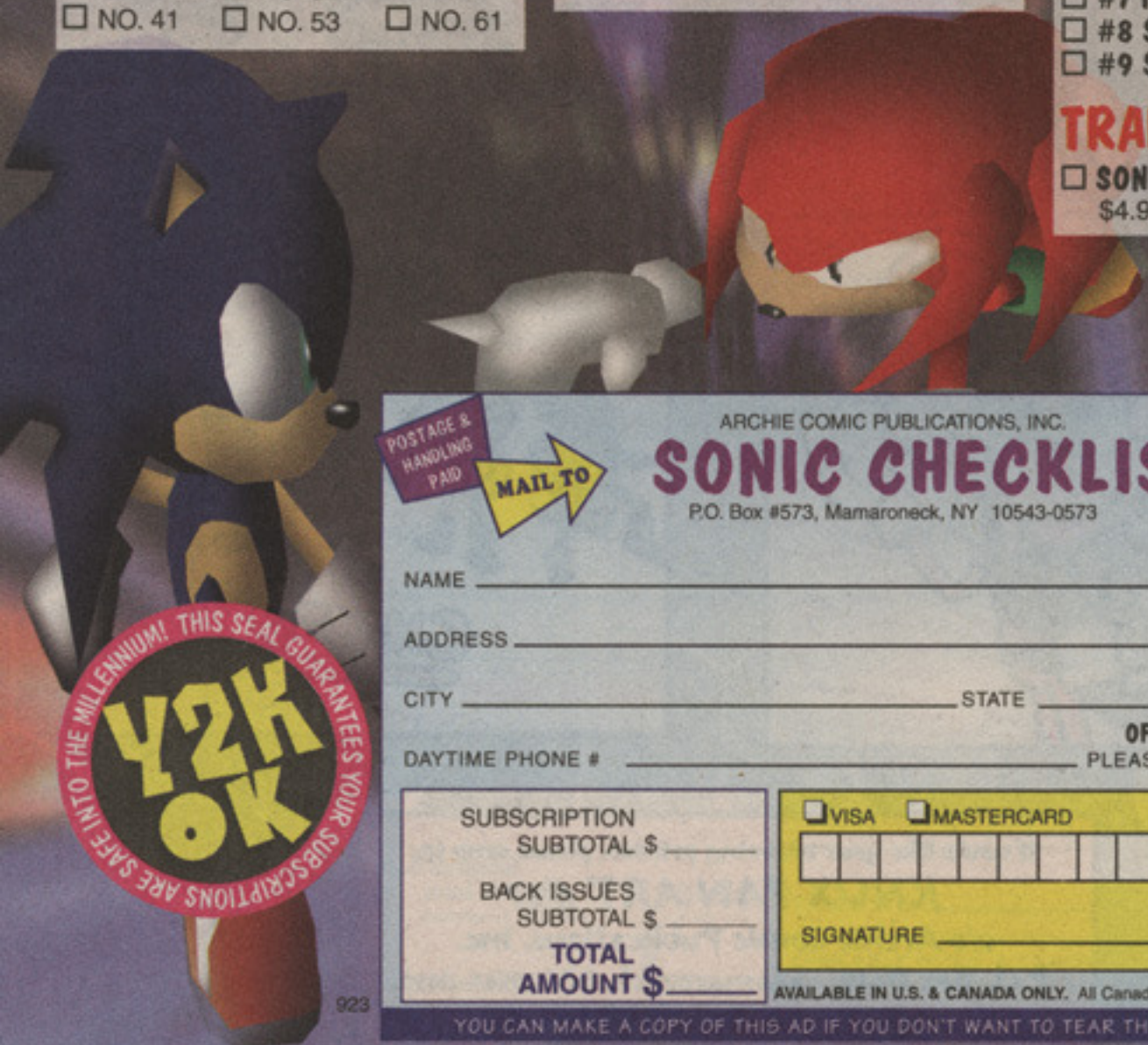

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